

Attorney Docket No. 23205.00

IN THE APPLICATION

OF

**MARK S. ZICKEFOOSE**

FOR AN

**ATTACHMENT TO MOTORCYCLE TO SAFELY TRANSPORT MUSICAL**  
**INSTRUMENTS**

**ATTACHMENT TO MOTORCYCLE TO SAFELY TRANSPORT MUSICAL**  
**INSTRUMENTS**

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to motorcycle mounting brackets. More particularly, the present invention relates to a system for safely transporting a guitar or the like having a quick-release bracket for attachment to a motorcycle.

**2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART**

The use of quick-release brackets for mounting various items on a motorcycle is known. Such brackets are particularly useful for saddlebags, seat supports or the like and may be mounted to the rear frame or a fender bar. The carrying of bulky musical instruments is a challenge when a motorcycle is used, leading to instrument damage and safety concerns by the rider. The musical instrument is preferably carried in a case

for protection and ease in carrying, during both transportation and hand carrying to the location of use. It would be desirable to provide a quick-release bracket and mountings for effective mounting and easy dismounting of a musical instrument case while safely carrying a musical instrument inside the case.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0057242 B1, published March 27, 2003, for Schurr, describes a motorcycle golf bag carrier used in conjunction with a saddlebag mounting system to connect and transport a user's golf bag on a motorcycle. The carrier is vertically attached to the side of a motorcycle by means of frame-mounted brackets.

U.S. Patent No. 3,938,719, issued February 17, 1976, to Carlton, describes a storage device for motorcycles and like vehicles. This storage device is used for transporting goods such as sporting equipment and grocery parcels, etc. The device includes a container for goods and an attachment system for detachably securing the container to a motorcycle.

U.S. Patent No. 5,558,260, issued September 24, 1996, to Reichert, describes a quick-release type mounting for attachment of a passenger seat rack having a rotating bracket engaging a support post mounted on a rear side frame of a motorcycle.

U.S. Patent No. 6,484,914 B1, issued November 26, 2002, to Wiley, describes a mounting system for an accessory where latching frames are connected to fender rails or the like by two posts. On each side of the motorcycle, a lateral groove of the latching frames first engages a front post on the fender rail and the latching frames rotated downward such that a vertical groove engages a rear post.

U.S. Patent No. 6,293,450 B1, issued September 25, 2001 to Aron, describes a motorcycle fender rail having quick-release posts for attachment of a bracket bearing a saddlebag.

U.S. Patent No. 6,591,193, issued December 10, 2002, to Dudek et al., describes a motorcycle luggage accessory. This device is a lumbar support and is removably secured longitudinally, laterally, and vertically to the back of a motorcycle. This luggage accessory serves as a backrest for the rider and as well as a means for storing personal effects.

None of the above inventions and patents, taken either singly or in combination, is seen to describe the instant invention as claimed. Thus, an attachment to a motorcycle to safely transport musical instruments solving the aforementioned problems is desired.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention is a bracket system for safely and securely mounting a musical instrument case to a motorcycle and allowing for ease of dismounting the case upon arrival at a location of instrument use or storage. The inventive system includes two grooved mounting posts and a mounting spool attached to the frame, rear fender, or rear fender rail of the motorcycle, and a bracket system mounted on the musical instrument case to removably receive the mounting posts and  
10 spool.

The two mounting posts are mounted horizontally along the length of the frame or fender, one being forward mounted and the other being rearward mounted. The system has a first bracket  
15 having an end-located post receiver groove and a vertical post receiver groove opening downward for engaging the two posts. By sliding the end-located post receiver groove over the forward post followed by rotational engagement of the rearward post by the downward opening post receiver groove of the second  
20 bracket the case is installed on the posts.

The system also has a second bracket mounted at a location on the same side of the case and spaced forward of the first bracket, the second bracket having an upward-opening spring

biased quick-release docking latch so mounted as to securely engage and disengage a spool mounted on the motorcycle. In a preferred embodiment, the two grooved posts are screw-mounted to the rear frame of the motorcycle, while the spool is mounted to the frame at a location proximate the rear of the motor via a front bracket support extending between the frame and the spool mounting point. The length and location of mounting of the front bracket support is determined by the configuration of the particular motorcycle. The second bracket is located forward on the instrument case relative to the first bracket as mounted on the corresponding spool and grooved posts, respectively. The case is removed by releasing the spring biased docking latch, rotating the case around the forward mounted grooved post so as to disengage the first and second brackets from their respective spool and rearward post, and lifting the case up and away from the forward post and the motorcycle.

Accordingly, it is a principal object of the invention to provide a system for securely carrying a musical instrument or the like on a motorcycle.

It is another object of the invention to provide a system as above having a bracket system for mounting and dismounting a musical instrument case holding and instrument therein.

It is another object of the invention to provide a system as above having a quick-disconnect feature for secure mounting and easy, quick-disconnect of the instrument case relative to the motorcycle.

5 It is a further object of the invention to provide a system as above having grooved mounting posts and a mounting spool inconspicuously mounted on the motorcycle for receiving a bracket system mounted on a side of the instrument case.

10 Still another object of the invention is to provide a system as above having spring loaded quick-disconnect latch mounted on a forward portion of the instrument case as mounted.

15 It is an object of the invention to provide improved elements and arrangements thereof for the purposes described which is inexpensive, dependable and fully effective in accomplishing its intended purposes.

These and other objects of the present invention will become readily apparent upon further review of the following specification and drawings.

#### 20 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is an environmental, perspective view of the musical instrument case as mounted to motorcycle to safely

transport musical instruments according to the present invention.

Fig. 2 is an exploded view of the instrument case of Fig. 1, showing the instrument and protective bag for installation of the instrument within the case.

Fig. 3 is a side elevation view of the rear portion of a motorcycle showing the grooved mounting posts and mounting spool of the system of Fig. 1 as mounted to the motorcycle.

Fig. 4 is an exploded view of the mounting posts, mounting spool, front bracket support, and first and second mounting brackets of Fig. 1 as exploded away from the rear portion of a motorcycle.

Fig. 5 is a side elevation view of a musical instrument case of Fig. 1 with first and second mounting brackets mounted on one side of the case.

Fig. 6A is a perspective view of the first mounting bracket and spring loaded quick-disconnect latch of Fig. 1, the latch shown in a closed position over the spool.

Fig. 6B is a perspective view of the first mounting bracket and spring loaded quick-disconnect latch of Fig. 1, the latch shown in the open position with the spool exploded away.



Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the second mounting bracket of Fig. 1 having lateral and downward opening grooves with the grooved posts exploded away.

Fig. 8 is a side elevation view similar to that of Fig. 3 where the mounting posts are mounted on a fender rail.

Similar reference characters denote corresponding features consistently throughout the attached drawings.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The present invention a bracket system for safely and securely mounting a musical instrument case to a motorcycle and allowing for ease of dismounting the case upon arrival at a location of instrument use or storage.

Referring to the Figures, the quick-release bracket system for mounting a musical instrument case or the like for safe, secure transport of a musical instrument on a motorcycle generally referred to by the reference number **10**. As seen in Fig. 1, case **C** is in the form of a guitar and is mounted to the frame **F** of motorcycle **M** at its rear portion. First mounting bracket **20** is engaged with front mounting post **12** and rear mounting post **14** which are, in turn mounted to the rear frame or fender of motorcycle **M** (see Fig. 3).

Second bracket **30** is spaced forward of and generally downward from first bracket **20** having quick-disconnect docking latch **34** engaging mounting spool **16** attached to the rear end portion of front lower bracket support **40**. Lower bracket support is attached to frame **F** of motorcycle **M** at a convenient point to the rear of the transmission of the motorcycle. The location of the first bracket **20**, the second bracket **30**, and the point of attachment of lower bracket support **40** on a motorcycle **M** may vary depending upon the configuration of the particular motorcycle used.

In differing applications, bracket support **40** may not be necessary as the mounting spool **16** could be otherwise attached to the motorcycle. Similarly, it is possible that bracket supports similar to bracket support **40** may be necessary as intermediate structure for supporting front mounting post **12** and rear mounting post **14**. Such configurations should be considered to be within the scope of the present invention.

As illustrated in Fig. 2, a musical instrument **G** such as a guitar may be placed in a protective bag **B** made of a cushioning material such as foam material and placed for transport and storage in case **C**.

Referring to Figs. **3** and **4**, there is shown a side elevation and an exploded view of the hardware mountings and

engaging brackets, respectively. The engaging brackets may be attached to the back of the case **C** by gluing, fasteners, or a combination thereof. Mounting posts **12** and **14** are of chrome plated or stainless steel and have circumferential grooves **13** therein for receiving first bracket **20**. The grooves are preferably lined with elastomeric material having high impact qualities for quiet and snug fit. Posts **12** and **14** are attached by screws **15** (not to scale) to frame **F** through rear fender **RF** by means of holes **19**, bored therethrough. Alternatively, posts **12** and **14** may be directly attached to rear fender **RF** in a similar manner.

Front end groove **22** of first bracket **20** receives forward post **12** upon mounting and then the bracket is rotated downward, downward opening vertical groove **24** receiving rear post **14**, forming a stable mounting for first bracket **20** and the back of case **C** attached thereto. Lower front bracket support **40** is in the form of an elongated flat or strut, mounted to frame **F** by mounting bolt **42** at frame throughbore **44**. Bolts and screws may be received in frame **F** in tapped bores, or appropriately positioned threaded nuts (not shown). The mounting spool **16** is made of chrome plated or stainless steel and is mounted to the free end of bracket support **40** by spool mounting screw **18** affixed in receiving bore **46**. Second mounting bracket **30** is

mounted by fasteners (not shown) to the forward back portion of case C with upward opening post receiving groove 32 having quick-release, spring biased latch 34 attached for engagement with mounting post 16.

5 As best seen in Figs. 5, 6A, and 6B there is illustrated the second bracket 30 attached to the back of case C near the base, thereof. Second bracket 30 has mounting bores 31 for fasteners (not shown) mounting bracket 30 to case C. A spacer (not shown) may be placed between bracket 30 and the back wall  
10 of case C to allow space to receive the free end of mounting spool 16. Docking latch 34 has a main body mounted on pivot 35 for rotation between an open and closed position. Docking latch 34 has an upward opening groove 36 having a spring biased latch member 38 for securing spool 16 in groove 36 (see Fig.  
15 6A). Docking latch 34 has a release crank 39 extending below the lower edge of bracket 30 having knurls to receive the user's thumb or finger to rotate latch 30 to an open position releasing spool 16 (see Fig. 6B). The docking latch 34 is commercially available, having Harley-Davidson Part No. 553542-  
20 95. The mounting posts 12 and 14, and the mounting spool 16 are also common Harley-Davidson parts, made of stainless or chrome steel and a hard plastic.

Referring particularly to Figs. 5 and 7, first bracket **20** is attached to the back of case **C** by gluing or other means (not shown) and has a generally downward post receiving slot **24** having a retaining rim **26** which is received in the slot **13** of rear mounting post **14**. A forward end groove **22** has a retaining rim **28** for receiving the slot **13** of forward post **12**.

Referring to Fig. 8, there is shown mounting posts **12** and **14** mounted on a fender rail **R** attached to frame **F** for receiving first bracket **20**. In this embodiment, the bracket **20** may be mounted lower on the back of case **C** as appropriate. Fender rail **R** is a common motorcycle part made of chrome steel or stainless steel.

The mounting bracket **20** is preferably made of high-impact plastic and mounted on the back of case **C** by adhesive in a known manner. In a production model the bracket **20** may be molded as part of the case **C**. The mounting bracket **30** is preferably made of stainless steel or chrome steel. The lower bracket support **40** is preferably made of stainless steel or chrome steel. Fasteners are preferably made of stainless steel.

It is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the embodiments described above, but encompasses any and all embodiments within the scope of the following claims.